
ARENA REPORT

Volume 1, Number 24

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

August 27, 1989
New Haven Coliseum
New Haven, CT

(11)

Welcome to the last issue of Volume I in "Arena Report". Now that most of you have done a double take on the location of the above card, no I haven't moved back (although on the wrestling front I should) nor did I travel to N.H. for the show. My publisher doesn't pay me enough. It looks like the curtain has finally fallen on the Florida promotion. In talking with Oliver Humperdink today (8/23) they will no longer run Orlando and only a very slight chance they'll run anywhere. So I had to come up with a contingency plan and all my old Northeast cohorts were heading for the NWA show this coming weekend so I'll get a great report to use as my main event for this issue. Right Mr. Reilly? There's lots of news to report on in this issue including the continuing saga of NWA screw ups. Lots of reports and a few interesting letters so read on and enjoy.

My next LIVE report will come from Lakeland on 9/8 with a decent line up covered in the "Final Word" section. The folding of Florida will have no affect on the printing schedule of A.R. I'll still have two issues per month. The NWA is nowhere to be found in Florida during September unless you live in the boonies, more on that later. Don't you love to be teased?

Onto the mundane but IMPORTANT reminder. "Arena Report" is put out twice per month with the NEW (sound like Howard Finkel) selling price of 75¢ an issue and you may subscribe to any amount of issues at one time. (Need to consult Harvy on the gramma there) Can't wait to see that Enquirer article. A number should appear at the top left corner indicating how many issues you have remaining. To Canadien subscribers: I messed up on the number last issue due to my rush in getting them in the mail to you since you'll read them by December with your Eskimo mailmen dilly dallying. Aay Greg? All renewals, letters, and match reports may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 370 Lake Tahoe Ct. #102 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Let's go to the Fax machine for my report from the nutmeg state.

Opening Match

Randy Rose used a neckbreaker to beat Al Greene in 10:36. Surprised Randy is still around. * $\frac{1}{4}$

2nd Match

Norman the Lunatic downed Philvince Apollo (Not sure which name he's using) in Norman's first of two matches tonight. He used a splash from the 2nd rope. $\frac{1}{4}$ *

3rd Match

Bill Irwin beat Ranger Ross with a roll up in 11:15. Dud

Tag Team Match

The Skyscrapers defeated The Midnight Express in 11:49. Surprisingly

good match with El Sid and Not So Dangerous Dan in there. Eaton missed a rocket launcher and Spivey gave him the power bomb. Bet Cornette is happy. *** $\frac{1}{2}$

5th Match

Brian Pillman pinned Norman the Lunatic in 4:23. Pretty bad bout here and short as well. Flyin Brian used a flyin' clothesline from the top rope. *

6th Match

Sting beat the Great Muta via DQ in what was described to me as a rip off. Match only went 3:51 and ending saw Sting with the scorpion on Muta but Gary Hart did a run in for DQ. *

NWA Tag Team Championship

Rick & Scott Steiner beat The Freebirds on a dq in 14:36. Some good spots in this one. Rick was pinning Michael Hayes when Jimmy Garvin came in and hit Rick with the title belt causing the DQ. * $\frac{1}{4}$

US Heavyweight Championship

Lex Luger pinned Tommy Rich (sub for no show Steve Williams) to retain the US title in 11:57. To some, this bout was unwatchable. They tried hard but no one cared about Rich. Luger won with a reverse roll up and had Tommy mooning the fans in the process. *

NWA World Heavyweight Championship

Ric Flair retained the World Title by pinning Terry Funk in 10:31. Most said a great bout but too short. A weak ending as Funk tripped over ref Tommy Young and Flair pinned him. After the bout, Terry beat up T.Y. Chu Hi. *** $\frac{1}{2}$

Steel Cage Tag Team Match

Road Warriors turned back the Samoan Swat Team in 7:04. No entrance music for the Roadies and no entrance music for lots of others tonight too. Fatu missed a diving headbutt and Hawk nailed him with a clothesline from the top rope. * $\frac{3}{4}$

New Haven Notes

The above report and grades are a compilation of Dan Reilly, Louie Fortuna, Gary Fishman, Evan Ginzburg, Scott Dickinson, Ted Field, Ted Bruttomesso, and Steve Dickinson... They didn't announce a return date... May have something to do with the crowd of only 2,500... From all the gangs opinions, this card was sub par. Why can't the NWA come up with the answers to draw better houses and put on better shows. Once in a while isn't enough... Card was very disorganized.

Ramblings

The Florida situation at this time is very confusing. There was a new TV show aired Friday night which means they taped in Tampa last Tuesday. But another source told me they were no longer running Tampa and Orlando but also not folding. What else is there to run? A phone call placed to their offices today (8/28) wound up with a recording saying the number has been disconnected. Make your own assumptions.... I guess Vince doesn't expect Jake Roberts to do much time. He's skedded to return 9/29 to work with DiBiase around the horn. Last I heard was Jake would probably do community service for his punishment. There also seems to be more to the story on what caused Jake to punch the guy out. Think of his history and you got the answer... As most of you know by now, Andre the Giant was arrested in Cedar Rapids, Iowa
(continued on page 6)

Correspondent Reports

Pittsburgh Civic Arena

Pittsburgh, PA

August 11, 1988

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Rich Sartain & Greg Evans downed Al Greene & Lee Scott in 5:32. Yes, the Ding Dongs without their masks. Why? Probably lost it in air travel. But why have them wrestle as themselves? Sartain pinned Scott. D- 2) Ron Simmons beat Curtis Thompson with a flying shoulder block at 3:26. C- 3) Sid Vicious powerbombed Ranger Ross at 5:06. Spivey a no show and Scott Hall came down and flipped a coin with the Ranger to see who would have the unfortunate privilege of going at it with half of the Scrapers. C 4) Brian Pillman used a reverse flying bodypress to defeat Norman the Lunatic at 6:37. Norman did a Kamala impersonation as he patted his belly. Pillman executed a nice snap suplex. C+ 5) Steiner Brothers beat New Zealand Militia at 11:09. Rick Steiner basically took the night off as Scott did most of the work. Rip Morgan went to slam Scott but Rick pushed his bro on top for the pin. C- 6) Great Muta and Sting went to a legit 20 minute time limit draw. John called Sting Stink and the Stinger replied, "Kiss my ass punk, I can smell you from here." Nice babyface. Sting was readying the scorpion when time ran out. B 7) Lex Luger beat Tommy Rich when he reversed a sunset flip with the help of tights at 16:37. B- 8) Ric Flair pinned Terry Funk in 13:01 of a wild melee. The best match John has seen all year and the third best Flair ~~bout~~ he's ever seen. Both bled like pigs. Flair knocked out ref Tommy Young, Funk took over and Gary Hart held a chair for Funk to slam Ric into but the Nature Boy reversed it and Flair scored the pin. A 9) Road Warriors beat Samoan Swat Team in a cage at 7:50. Everyone was worn out from the previous bout. Hawk pinned Fatu after a clothesline from the top rope. C+ Att: 3,000

Cleveland Convention Center

Cleveland, Ohio

August 15, 1989

Correspondent: Larry Englebray

(NWA syndie TV tapings)

1) The State Patrol beat Ding Dongs. Patrol is a new heel team dressed like Boss Man.. Horrible match. 2) Midnight Express beat The Freebirds when Bobby Eaton pinned Jim Garvin. This was to be a singles match between Garvin and Eaton as it was announced that Stan Lane had injured his hand but then Sweet Stan ran out and the bout was a brawl. Non-Title. 3) Ron Simmons & Cuban Assassin (David Sierra) upset Eddie Gilbert & Tommy Rich as Iron Sheik came to ringside and clobbered Hot Stuff with the flagpole leading to a Simmons pin. 4) Sid Vicious destroyed Lee Scott with a powerbomb. 5) Midnight Express beat Tony Suber & Ron Simmons as Sheik comes out and takes Ron away from the ring where the Express double goozle Suber. 6) Samoan Swat Team squash Bob Emoryboard and Mike Justice. 7) Ric Flair pinned Brad Armstrong in a purely scientific match. 8) Tommy Rich beat Bill Thorn with the Lou Thesz press (weakest finishing move I've ever seen.) 9) The Steiners beat The Freebirds via DQ. 10) Great Muta squashes Scott Hall in three minutes. (Gator's push appears over thank God.) 11) Ric Flair beat Terry Funk and after the bout, Terry beats the snot out of Tommy Young. 12) Brian Pillman beat Jerry Price. 13) Tommy Rich beat Cuban Assaain. 14) Lex Luger used the ropes to defeat Brad Armstrong. 15) Skyscrapers destroyed the Ding Dongs and then tore off their masks. Norman put one on and the other on his broom he was carrying. 16) Terry Funk annihilates Lee Scott after Scott had the audacity to put on Terry's cowboy hat. Lee does a stretcher job. 17) Sting squished the Bounty Hunter in 30 seconds, 18) Steiners beat The State Patrol but what stole the show was "Robin Green" has become Fallen Angel (in looks anyway) Like the Talia Shire change in the

first "Rocky" movie. 19) Brad Armstrong beat Trent Knight with a Russian leg sweep. A fan pushed Tommy Young and Young nailed him. Good. 20) Brian Pillman won over Cruel Connection #3,098. 21) Sting beat Muta when the jap threw him over the top rope for DQ. Only lasted five minutes. 22) Lex Luger retained the US Title beating Tommy Rich using the ropes for leverage. Rich looked wasted all night.. Att: 3,000

Wheeling Civic Center

Wheeling, WV

August 18, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan (with assist to Steve Schonberger)

1) Barry Windham used a flying lariet to down Paul Roma in 9:32. C+ 2) Greg Valentine went to a twenty minute draw with Bret Hart at 18:30. You figure it out. Both were laying on the mat after a Hart suplex when the bell rang. D+ 3) Haku pinned Hercules as Herc had the former king in a full nelson and they dropped back with both wrestlers shoulders' on the mat but the ref declared Haku the winner. D 4) Randy Savage defeated Hulk Hogan via count out in 8:36. Both Sherri and Liz were here and Liz actually showed some emotion. She even smacked the scary one a couple of times. B 5) Dino Bravo beat Jim Neidhart as the Anvil slammed Bravo but Dino hung on and cradled Jim. D+ 6) Hacksnore Duggan beat Akeem with the help of the 2 X 4 at 7:40. Ref was knocked down and as Duggan tried to revive him, the dream tried to use the wood but he missed and Hack nailed him with it. D 7) Rockers beat The Rougeaus at 9:30. Dissappointing for these teams as too much stalling. Raymond and Jannetty collided and Michaels put Marty on top for the pin. C Att:7,80

Pershing Municipal Auditorium

Lincoln, NE

August 20, 1989

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Tim Horner downed Barry Horowitz with a reverse cradle and a bridge at 14:00. 2) Curt Hennig used the ropes to defeat Hillbilly Jim in 11:00. Bad stuff. 3) Ultimate Warrior over Andre the Giant in 28 seconds. Two clotheslines and a splash and its over. State Commisioner went and told Tony Garea he never wants Andre in Nebraska again. Pretty pissed. 4) Demolition beat Brain Busters via DQ in a dissappointing 5:00. 5) Rick Martel drew Tito Santana in 18:00. Mostly stalling. 6) Rick Rude pinned Brutus Beefcake in 15:00 in a bout filled with sexual and sick humor. Levine would have loved it. Att: 3,712. Congrats to Bruce who was named employee of the year at his hospital he works at. Not Norman's either.

Letters To The Editor

Harry Speaks

Can't remember when I laughed so hard as during your Chicago videos. I may have even laughed myself into a hernia. Goodness knows how Tom Robinson got his.

With no more Steamboat-Flair or Funk-Brisco matches, I'll take Lemieux & Dickinson vs. McAdam & Levine. What a classic! Jammie Ward is my favorite director since Gerald Damiano did "Deep Throat". Wade Keller is my favorite announcer since Al Goldstein on the Rob Lowe video. Take charge referee Mike Gunter made John Ayers seem like Pee Wee Herman. Steve "Mr. Comedy" Sims made a convincing straight laced contract attorney. Every UAWF member shined when interviewed for the camera. I think Jon Gallagher should ask for TV time with the performers he has.

Harry White
St. Louis, MO

Dear Ron (?)

I was going to send this one to Dear Abby, but I realize your mailbag

is a little smaller and I have a better shot at getting the help I so badly need.

Recently, I had this date and all was going well until she asked me what I was doing the following weekend. Although I had second thoughts, I told her I was going to the Philly and Baltimore bashes and staying at the same hotel as the wrestlers. Since she isn't a wrestling fan, she asked a reasonable question, "Why are you travelling so far if it's fake?" When I told her Ric Flair is an artist like Nureyev and Barishnikov are great artists, she looked at me like I had escaped from an asylum.

Ron, your romantic experiences are legendary (RL- Who have you been talking to.) and retold in hushed whispers throughout the country. What would you have done?

Evan Ginzburg
Bayside, NY

RL- Fixed her up with Barishnikov and gone to the Bashes.

Powerful Patera

I am a fan of Ken Patera. And I think he is the strongest wrestler of all time. For a while, he may have looked a little smaller but on Sunday, August 6th, he looked in tremendous shape. He is a classy guy whenever he arrives at an arena. I think fans should respect Ken. He was a great athlete and he has held tons of weightlifting records, is half of the AWA tag champions and owns his own gym. I hope I am getting across to the fans who dislike him. But in my opinion, he is the greatest of all time.

Wade Olson
Harris, MN

RL- What can I say, except everyone has their own opinion.

Termies and Pillman

The in depth reports of both you and correspondents is what sets your bulletin apart from others. The comments make the difference. So don't just become a results lister.

I'd like to ask two questions. Would you do a comparison of the Terminators (Windy City), Demolition and the Roadies. Do you think they could make it on a major circuit?

Several prominent wrestling names (Wade Keller, Bro Jeff Steele, and Bill Kunkel) have panned in print Flyin Brian Pillman. What are your thoughts on the flyer and his potential.

NWA's answer to George Steele: Rick Steiner. Now they steal the zoo visit. Not very creative.

Klon
Melbourne, FL

RL- I'm sorry about the reports last issue but space limitations made me shorten the reports. Hope you like this issue's better. From what I saw of the Terminators in Chicago, I don't believe they will make it big time. With Titan however, anything is possible. Lord knows they've taken worse. Size wise, they are not up to Demo or Roadie standards and I hated their work rate but I've only seen them in one match so it's not fair. I really have to hold judgement on Brian Pillman. I've seen him in some good bouts and some not so good. But he hasn't really worked with anyone that is on his level ability wise. What can he show against Norman? Give him time and he'll prove he belongs.

Power Hour

The UAWF convention sounds like it was indeed alot of fun. A question

about that flick you spoke of; "Alley Cats". Isn't that the porno flick that Misty Blue allegedly made? If so, Ron Dobratz shouldn't have walked out over a lack of plot. I've seen few porno flicks with much, if any plot.

I enjoyed Elyse Zois' letter. Her comments on "NWA Power Hour" were right as rain. I've no complaint with the show itself, but these regular delays caused by the Braves games are ridiculous. Especially when the games go into extra innings at which time, I simply turn the TV off and forget about it.

To elaborate on Elyse's comments now. The baseball season will be over next month, but the new TV season will have begun. How will Power Hour fare when faced with the competition of the network's first run programming? More precisely, just how many times will casual fans, seeing wrestling listed in the TV book, bother to tune in when every time they do, the baseball game is still being played?

Just a while ago, this wouldn't even have been a consideration of mine. I despised the NWA when Rhodes was booked every bit as bad as the Titan bashers hate the WWF. I wouldn't have bothered with an NWA TV show, ball game or not. Oh, I'd attempt to watch the Sat. show, but that was all I could take.

I'm still disgusted all to hell by the adamant Titan bashers, but the NWA product, itself, has improved a thousand fold. The NWA is now very, very entertaining, and well worth watching. I'm disgusted by the sheer hypocrisy of a promotion stating, "We Wrestle." and then promoting things like Norman, Ding Dongs, a tuxedo bout between Paul E. and Cornette, and showing a video of Rick Steiner and Robin Green's date at the zoo. Apart from that though, I have no problem with the NWA currently.

Back to Power Hour and the competition of the network's new seasons. Speaking for myself, I won't consider missing "Dallas" for the undependable airing of Power Hour.

Jack Thompson
Salt Lake City, Utah

RL- I won't even consider the rating for the Power Hour until they start their regular time slot of 10:00 on Friday night's. You might as well say they'll be starting all over again.

(continued from page 2)

for assaulting a cameraman. It even made "Entertainment Tonight". Because of that, some people think this was a work and Vince was trying to get publicity for Andre. I think not for two reasons. A) Why would he be having Andre do 30 second jobs for the Warrior. B) Even though Vince has alot of power, I find it hard to believe that the police would take their time to participate in a scam. Than again, what else do police in Iowa have to do?... What a card that Jim Ross is. Two weeks ago on "Worldwide Wrestling", he had these comments on coming to Connecticut. "We have alot of close followers in Stamford" (WWF Headquarters) We'd like to say hello to the Finkel family.... Next time the TBS baseball announcers plug wrestling, make sure the get the names straight. "Tony Rich will take on Lex Luger." Get a grip!... That match by the way was damn good... Ric Flair is not a happy camper as of late. It seems alot of promises have been made in the dark, mainly the sydie network upgrading. Also the recent TBS screwups including not taping the Slater-Sting angle which turned out okay anyway... They did alot of editing with that match... Kendall Windham turned heel at the ICW tapings in Maine last week... Credit the Hogan-Savage cover of "Sports Review Wrestling" to arena reporter Ted Field. Hope Vince

doesn't ban him from ringside... Here's how to run an independant. Killer Kowalski promoted a show at Holman Stadium in Nashua, NH on August 16th. It drew 4,800. Advertising all over town and tons of publicity. Main bouts saw John Studd beat Chris Duffy (good worker), Nikolai Volkoff downed Mike Sharpe, and David Sammartino upended Johnny Valiant... NWA 8/26 drew 4,500 in Philly. Word of the Ding Dongs demise was premature as they worked this card. Will have full report next time out... NWA booked a show at the Worcester Memorial Auditorium 9/27 with Flair-Funk, Muta-Sting. The place only holds 4,000 but Vince runs the Centrum there so no competition for the building. It's more realistic for Turner to run there anyway. They have a good time slot for the "A" show so they could carve a nice little niche... Vince has cancelled his NESN contract. So the Boston Garden cards will no longer be televised. Turner should go after that as NESN payed McIdiot to run them... Looks like Robin Green will turn heel eventually which surprised me as I had a feeling it would be Missy... Looks like Paul E. will only be phased out as manager for the time being. He'll still do TV commentary. Bad move. Again!... Ken Patera has started a 900 wrestling number. He says will appeal to "smart" fans (his wording), as well as casual fans. The number is 1-900-646-SLAM... World Class planning a scaffold match with Hickerson, Young, and Tojo vs. Embry, Adams, and Percy. There could be another death in World Class.. Now, a personal note if you please; There has been a few incidents recently where a fan has been hassled or even thrown out of WWF TV tapings for carrying an NWA banner or showing support to the (no) competition federation. Let's be fair about this gang. If you were at an NWA taping with a "Hulk Rules" t-shirt on, sitting front row, don't you think they would ask you to remove it? If you don't think so, then your lying to yourself. I'm not condoning throwing someone out for it of course and I'm not saying it's wrong to do it. But the NWA would do the same as the WWF and that hurts to say... A couple of plugs: Dave Meltzer puts out "Wrestling Observer Newsletter" at a rate of \$5.00 per 4 issue set. I don't know anyone that doesn't get this and if you don't, it's your loss. Write to Dave at PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009... Tom Burke puts out "Global Wrestling". Write to Tom at 31 Groveland ST. Springfield, MA 01108... More next time.

Final Word

Hope everyone enjoyed this issue. Next issue will come from the Lakeland Civic Center 9/8 with this line-up: Hogan vs. Savage with Sherri and Liz present, Windham vs. Taylor, Bret Hart vs. Hennig, Snuka vs. Honkey, and Powers of Pain vs. the Bushes... I'll also have a SummerSlam review along with the usual potpourri. Sure, okay... Thanks to all contributors and a big one to my northeast contingent. See you in two.

Ron